

P 192054Z MAY 08
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
INFO MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 053303

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/19/2033
TAGS: [PARM](#) [MTCRE](#) [PREL](#) [SF](#) [IR](#)

SUBJECT: IRANIAN COMPANY INTEREST IN PROCURING VACUUM
FURNACE FROM POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN PROVIDER (S)

Classified By: ISN/MTR DIRECTOR PAM DURHAM
REASONS 1.4 (B), (C) AND (D).

[¶1.](#) This is an action request. Embassy Pretoria,
please see paragraph 4.

[¶2.](#) (S) Background: The USG has information that as of
mid-February 2008, Iran-based Sabalan Company was
provided with technical specifications for a possible
South African-origin VGT-1200-1200 high temperature
vacuum furnace from a representative of the Iran-based
firm M.S. Company. The Sabalan Company is affiliated
with the Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group (SHIG), which
is Iran's primary developer of liquid-fueled ballistic
missiles. Although vacuum furnaces are not controlled
by the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the
specific unit being sought would be useful to a missile
production facility.

[¶3.](#) (S) Objective: Given the Sabalan Company's
affiliation with Iran's missile program, we want to
raise this matter with South African authorities and
urge that they investigate this information with a view
to ensure that South African firms are not involved in
the supply of missile-sensitive technologies to Iran.

[¶4.](#) (S) Action Request: Request Embassy Pretoria
approach appropriate host government officials to
deliver talking points in paragraph 5 below and report
response. Talking points also may be provided as a
non-paper.

[¶5.](#) (S) Begin talking points/non-paper:

(SECRET REL PRETORIA)

-- In the spirit of our nonproliferation cooperation,
we would like to alert you to a matter of potential
proliferation concern and request your assistance in
investigating this activity.

-- We have information indicating that as of mid-
February 2008, Iran's ballistic missile program was
seeking a high temperature vacuum furnace - possibly
from a South African company.

-- Specifically, we understand that Dr. Shokrola
Masihpour of Iran's M.S. Company - possibly acting as
an intermediary - provided technical specifications
for a VGT-1200-1200 high temperature vacuum furnace to
the Sabalan Company.

-- The Sabalan Company is affiliated with the Shahid
Hemmat Industrial Group (SHIG), Iran's primary
developer of liquid-fueled ballistic missiles and an
entity designated under UN Security Council Resolution
[¶1737](#).

-- The M.S. Company advised Sabalan to establish a
letter of credit for the South African company Prestige
Thermal Equipment Pty Ltd. at the First National Bank,
Wadeville branch, South Africa.

-- We understand that the vacuum furnace with

accessories would cost approximately \$1.7 million.

-- While vacuum furnaces are not controlled by the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and are used in many commercial applications, the unit sought by Sabalan would be very well-suited to annealing and brazing processes in a missile production facility.

-- Given Sabalan's affiliation with Iran's missile program, we request that you investigate this information and take measures to ensure that South African firms are not involved in the supply of missile-sensitive items and technologies to Iranian end-users of proliferation concern.

-- We look forward to hearing the results of your investigation.

End talking points/non-paper

16. (U) Washington POC is ISN/MTR April Jones (Phone: 202-647-3176). Please slug any reporting on this issue for ISN/MTR.

17. (U) A word version file of this document will be posted at www.state.sgov.gov/demarche.
RICE

NNNN

End Cable Text